AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph in the Specification, beginning on page 58, line 28 as follows:

--The PCR amplifications consisted of 0.1 ng of plasmid template, 1 μM each of the forward (RA167: 5' GGCCATGGGTACCACCACCACCACCACCTCTCTCTGTCTGTTACTTCAGAAGTCCAT ATG 3'; SEQ ID NO:4); and the reverse primer (RA~~175~~**RA147**: 5' GGCTCTAGAGGTATATAAATATAAAGAGGTATG 3'; SEQ ID NO:5); 7.5 units KlenTaql polymerase (Ab Peptides, Inc., St. Louis, Missouri), 0.075 units *Pfu* polymerase (Stratagene Cloning Systems, La Jolla, California), 1 x PC2 (KlenTaql) buffer and 0.2 mM dNTPs in a 50 μl volume. PCR was carried out in 4 stages: (i) 94°C for 5 min (5'); (ii) 94°C for 1 min, 58°C for 30 seconds, 72°C for 1.5 min, x 33 cycles; (iii) 72°C for 10 min. (iv) hold at 4°C.--.

Please amend the paragraph in the Specification, beginning on page 59, line 6 as follows:

--The PCR fragment containing the SodC gene of L. intracellularis was subcloned into pCR2.1-TOPO (Invitrogen Corp., Carlsbad, CA) ~~and designated pALK14~~. The pCR2.1-TOPO intermediate plasmid was digested with NcoI and EcoRI and the 0.6 kb fragment excised therefrom was gel-purified and sub-cloned into NcoI-EcoRI-digested pET28b, to produce the PP-SS(-)SodC expression plasmid, pRL032. In this plasmid, the ATG start codon of PP-SS(-)SodC is directly downstream from the ribosome-binding site. The expression of the PP-SS(-)SodC protein from this plasmid is under control of the T7 promoter, which is inducible by IPTG. The plasmid was introduced into E.coli BL21 (DE3) cells for expression of the modified SodC protein.--